

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING NETWORK PROTECTION AT  
INPUT/OUTPUT INTERFACES OF A CROSS-CONNECT SWITCH

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A telecommunications system (10) includes a first  
cross-connect switch (12) and a second cross-connect switch  
(14). The first cross-connect switch (12) includes a  
switching matrix that provides information from a matrix  
connection to a selector (28) of an output interface (18).  
10 The selector (28) places the information from the switching  
matrix onto one or both of a working channel (24) and a  
protection channel (26). The second cross-connect switch  
(14) receives the working channel (24) and the protection  
channel (26) at an input interface (20). The input  
15 interface (20) includes a selector (30) that checks a  
signal quality of the working channel (24) and the  
protection channel (26). When necessary, the selector (30)  
sends a request to the selector (28) to bridge the working  
channel (24) onto the protection channel (26). According  
20 to the signal quality, the selector (30) selects one of the  
working channel (24) and the protection channel (26) for  
transfer to a switching matrix (22) of the second cross-  
connect switch (14). The selector (30) avoids creating and  
deleting matrix connections in the switching matrix (22) in  
performing protection switches between the working channel  
(24) and the protection channel (26).